THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Venture Intelligence, a division of India based TSJ Media Pvt. Ltd. carried out a survey of Private Equity and Venture Capital firms and brought out a study report titled "Private Equity Pulse on Healthcare and Life Sciences". According to the study report, Private Equity and Venture Capital investors have invested over $2 billon into Healthcare and Life Sciences (HLS) companies in India over the last five years and are keen to step up the pace of investments in this industry. As per the findings of the survey, over 42% of investors felt that there was a strong opportunity to tap the market for Healthcare services in increasingly prosperous semi-urban and rural areas.

(c) No specific requests have been received.

Food labelling

3723. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has requested State Governments not to book cases against companies not complying with Health Ministry's recently notified nutritional labelling provisions on packaged foods for next three months more;

(b) whether packaged food manufacturers must declare on their product labels, nutritional information to enable consumers make informed choices while purchasing;

(c) whether Ministry had on September, 2008 notified Prevention of Food Adulteration (5th Amendment) Rules, 2008 mandating packaged food manufacturers to declare on their product labels, the nutritional information; and

(d) if so, the reasons for asking States not to book cases on erring food companies?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The Central Government issued notification G.S.R. No. 664(E) dated 19.9.2008 under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 making it mandatory for the manufacturers of all packaged food items to indicate on the labels of the product the nutritional information, and claims made with regard to the amount or type of fatty acids, the amounts of cholesterol, saturated fatty acids, monounsaturated fatty acids, polyunsaturated fatty acids, claims about the product being free from Trans Fat, etc.

The intention of the notification, which, read with the corrigendum No. G.S.R. 135(E) dated 27.2.09 came into effect on 19.3.2009 was that the food manufacturers ensure that the products are suitable labeled and consumers, are able to make an informed choice for use of these products with the help of the information provided on the lable of food packages. After the said labeling provisions were notified, the Government received numerous representations from the industry *inter alia* seeking additional time so that it could prepare itself to accommodate these requirements.

After considering the issues raised in the representations received, especially the constraints faced by the small scale manufacturers, the Government issued advisory to the

States/UT Governments asking them not to book cases for violation these labeling provisions during the initial period of three months of implementation of the provisions of the said notification.

Ready to use therapeutic food

3724. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new branded food in the name 'ready to use therapeutic food' has been imported into the country by international agencies worth crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details of the importing agencies and its timing;

(c) whether this has been supplied to different States of the country;

(d) whether this was done within the ambit of national policy and approval of the Union Government; and

(e) what is the action being taken by Government to prevent such commercialization of child malnutrition and to ensure necessary regulation of international aid/assistance in future?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) As per information received from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, 'Ready To Use Therapeutic Food' (RUTF), costing approximately Rs.11.5 crores, was imported by UNICEF India into the country between August 2008 and January 2009.

RUTF was supplied and used in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar to treat children with severe acute malnutrition.

(d) RUTF was used in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh without any request or approval of Government of India. Use of RUTF is not a policy of Government of India.

(e) The whole issue was examined in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs. UNICEF has been directed to discontinue the use of RUTF and ship the stocks out of the country. UNICEF has further been asked not to act on any requests received directly by them, from State Governments. Disbursal of medicines and other health and family welfare related supplies be made under the supervision of the State Health and Family Welfare authorizes with the knowledge/concurrence of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Expansion of Government hospitals in Delhi

†3725. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Government hospitals in Delhi wherein various departments have been expanded during the last three years alongwith the details of total number of hospitals and the number of beds increased therein; and

(b) the details of total number of Government hospitals in Delhi for treatment of children

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.